



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY PARK

TECHTOWN

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Wayne County Stem Cell Commercialization Center

Overview: The Wayne County Stem Cell Commercialization Center is the only center of its kind in the United States. It assists researchers and companies seeking to commercialize embryonic or adult stem cell research by providing laboratory equipment, space, as well as licensing and business services.

Facility: The commercialization center is a 2,500-square-foot laboratory located in **TechTown**, the Wayne State University research park and business incubator, with more than 70 high-tech companies.

Amenities: The Center will have a dedicated laboratory and technical staff to maintain and expand human stem cell lines. Expertise and training will be available for participant companies for other culture work. There will be access to core facilities at Wayne State University, such as the Applied Genomics Technology Center, flow cytometry, confocal microscopy and mass spectroscopy.

Business Resources: Companies also will benefit from TechTown's business services and programs. This includes **SmartStart**, a growth program for startups that offers mentoring, individualized coaching and intensive education with a practical focus for getting results. International companies seeking to enter the U.S. market can take advantage of TechTown's **International Soft Landings**, a program that eases the transition into the world's largest health care market by providing office

services plus translations, a sales team and an established network of contacts in the life sciences.

Research Community: More than \$300 million is invested in research by Detroit institutions, including Wayne State University and the Henry Ford Health System. The Kauffman Foundation ranks Michigan second out of all states for research and development.

Biobanking: The stem cell center is right in the heart of one of the world's major biobanking centers. Drug companies seeking to enter the U.S. health care market first must obtain FDA approval for their drugs. Use of human tissue samples for determining the efficacy and safety of new drugs can speed up the FDA approval process dramatically. Biobanks at TechTown include **Asterand**, a publicly traded company that supplies high quality human tissue samples for medical research. The Financial Times voted Asterand "Best Performing Share 2008." The **National Institutes of Health**, the **State of Michigan** and the **Henry Ford Health System** also store a wealth of human tissue and blood samples at TechTown.

Clients: At least five stem cell startup companies will occupy the lab once it opens in late 2009. One of these includes a Hungarian/American joint venture, Central European Ventures, which commercializes technologies from Central Europe in the North American market.

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